

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

**Please amend the paragraph beginning on line 19 of page 9 as follows:**

Fig. 50 shows the configuration of an optical probe system in accordance with the ninth embodiment [[2]]; and

**Please amend the paragraph beginning on line 5 of page 51 as follows:**

Luminous flux irradiated to the object 113 is partly reflected and routed to the optical element 110 [[10]]. The luminous flux also falls on the distal end of the optical fiber 109. In this case, the distal end of the optical fiber 109 has a small area like a spot. Only light reflected from the focal point on the object 113 falls on the distal end of the optical fiber 109 that has a confocal relationship to the optical element 110.

**Please amend the paragraph beginning on line 18 of page 52 as follows:**

Moreover, the observation unit 103 includes a signal generator 121 that determines the timing of producing an image. A clock to be used as a reference by the signal generator 121, and a sync signal to be used as a reference in producing one frame image, that is, a sync signal X-sync or Y-sync based on which an object is scanned in the X or Y direction are transferred to the A/D converter 115 [[1115]]. Synchronously with the clock and sync signal, the A/D converter 115 performs analog-to-digital conversion.

**Please amend the paragraph beginning on line 10 of page 54 as follows:**

Moreover, according to the present embodiment, an endoscopic image signal sent from a video processor or a camera control unit, which is included in an endoscope system that is not shown and produces an endoscopic image, is transferred to the imaging device 117 [[1117]]. The imaging device 117 transmits the endoscopic image and an image

resulting from optical scanning to the monitor 104 via a mixer or the like. Both the images are displayed on the monitor 104.